CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 14, No. 29 TORONTO, JULY 20, 1949 $2.00 Per Annum

MGM Celebrating Silver Anni

Theatre Building Moving Along

Theatre construction in the Dominion is moving right along as the fine weather continues and materials and labor, formerly in short supply, become increasingly available. Several theatres opened, another neared completion and work started on

(Continued on Page 9)

Ten Movie Houses Change Owners

A number of theatres have changed hands in Canada recently. Details of the transfers are as follows:

Morrisburg, Ont. Carl Madsen has purchased the six-day, 200-seat Cameo from James Loucks.

Stouffville, Ont. National The-

(Continued on Page 3)

Company Attains Enviable Rep For Quality And Practices

While the actual founding of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer took place at Culver City, California, in May, 1924, the Silver Anniversary celebration, under the direction of Howard Dietz and Howard Strickling, will extend over the year. The celebration got under way in February, when 80 of the company's executives, including Ted Gould, Canadian general sales manager, got together in Los Angeles. Their meetings were climaxed by a huge banquet at which 750 people, including 60 MGM stars, were present.

The company, Hollywood's largest, began with 500 employees. Today it has 3,700 and 31 sound stages. It has not had one merger or reorganization and its stars have won twice as many

(Continued on Page 9)

Al Glazer Joins JARO 16 Mm.

Albert Glazer, in the film industry in several fields during the past few years, has become sales manager of the amusement division of the J. Arthur Rank 16mm. Limited, it was announced by O. R. Hanson, president and general manager of that company.

Isabell Oullahan will act as sales manager of the company's instructional and religious films division.

Steady growth made the addition necessary, Hanson said.

The company handles films from Eagle-Lion, Monogram, Allied Artists and Alliance.

Expanded Prod'n By Renaissance

An expanded production program involving $300,000 new capital was decided upon at the recent annual meeting of the shareholders of Renaissance Films Distribution, Inc., in Montreal. The board of directors for the coming year was elected at

(Continued on Page 3)

Sears To Direct

Fred Sears will direct Columbia's Riders of the Black Mesa.

U-I Borrows Star

Universal - International has borrowed MacDonald Carey from Paramount for the title role in The Bowles Story.

50% Odeon-Canada To 20th Century-Fox?

Reports from London, England, which reached New York last week, said that 20th Century-Fox is negotiating with J. Arthur Rank for the purchase of 50 per cent of his Canadian theatre interests. Future of Odeon Theatres of Canada has been the subject of much conjecture in Canada since the long illness of the Hon. J. Earl Lawson, KC, managing director of the J. Arthur Rank Organization of Canada.

The recent visit of John Davis, Rank's chief lieutenant, gave impetus to rumors of switches in personnel and the appointment of a general manager for the-

(Continued on Page 9)

Schermer To Produce

Paramount has assigned Jules Schermer to produce Ex-Hero from the original story by George Auerback and William Saroyan.

Maynard Gets Bates' Okay On 'Sins'?

It is said that Dr. Gordon Bates, director of the Health League of Canada, has withdrawn his objections to Sins of the Fathers, the sex hygiene film being distributed by Maynard Films. Ontario censor ordered it withdrawn from circulation after the Bates' group's agitation. It is heard that changes suggested by Bates have been made and arrangements concluded for payment of a percentage of its earnings to the Health League. This may result in the censor's okay.

VAUDEVILLE, ETC. FOR VARIETY BALL NIGHT

Dick Todd, famous singing star, will be one of a number of outstanding visiting and resident entertainers who will help to make Variety baseball night at the Toronto Maple Leaf Stadium a financial and social success. Raymond Allen, Larry Graburn, Ernie Rawley, Murray Little and George Taggart, barkers all, are lining up acts.

It is hoped to have the Page Cavanaugh trio there, as well as a parade of competitors for the title of Miss Toronto, preliminaries of which are being conducted by the Police Benevolent Association on the stage of the Odeon-Toronto.

The Norman Harris orchestra, "especially augmented for the occasion," will be provided by the Toronto Musical Protective

(Continued on Page 3)

JARO'S JOHN DAVIS VISITS CANADA

John Davis, No. 2 man in the J. A. Rank empire, spent four days in Toronto conferring with Odeon and Eagle-Lion executives. It was more or less a routine visit, although the continued illness of the Hon. J. Earl Lawson, KC, head of the J. Arthur Rank Organization of Canada, made it an important one. The usual set of rumors followed Davis' visit.

The boys are really HOT!!!

NASSOUR STUDIOS presents

BUD ABBOTT LOU COSTELLO "Africa Screams"

"A sure money-maker!" *Showmen's Trade Review*

"A new high for Abbott and Costello. Money for all. One continuous howl!" *Daily Variety*

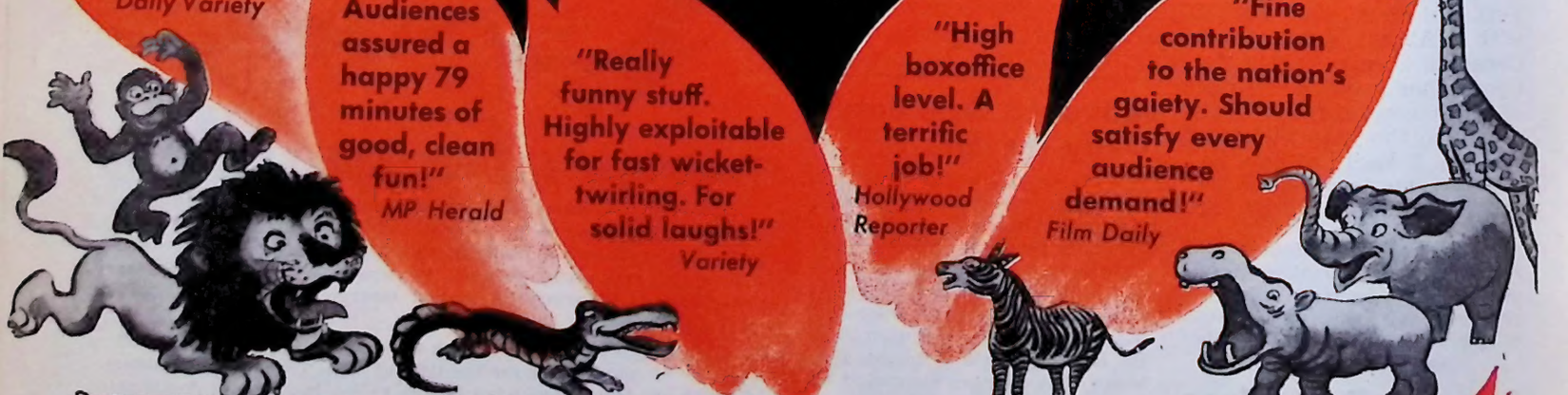
"A natural. Audiences assured a happy 79 minutes of good, clean fun!" *MP Herald*

"Really funny stuff. Highly exploitable for fast wicket-twirling. For solid laughs!" *Variety*

"High boxoffice level. A terrific job!" *Hollywood Reporter*

"Fine contribution to the nation's gaiety. Should satisfy every audience demand!" *Film Daily*

"A boxoffice winner. Strictly for howls!" *Boxoffice*



WORLD FAMOUS LION TAMER! **CLYDE BEATTY**

WORLD FAMOUS ANIMAL HUNTER! **FRANK BUCK**

WORLD FAMOUS HEAVYWEIGHT SENSATIONS! **MAX and BUDDY BAER**

HOT thru UA!

and HILLARY BROOKE · JOE BESSER · SHEMP HOWARD · Directed by CHARLES BARTON · Produced by EDWARD NASSOUR

HUNTINGTON HARTFORD Production · Original Story and Screenplay by Earl Baldwin.

THEATRE TRANSFERS

(Continued from Page 1)

atre Services has taken over the operation of the six-day, 280-seat Stanley from Foto-Nite.

Westlock, Alta. J. L. Serenas and J. Wojcicki have acquired the 250-seat, six-day Roxy from A. E. Staniland.

Barrhead, Alta. N. K. and A. Jensen have bought the six-day, 333-seat Roxy from A. E. Staniland.

Dominion City, Man. J. Meshwa has sold his 150-seat Dominion City Theatre, which is open one or two days weekly, to M. D. Borodenko.

St. Gabriel de Brandon, Que. Tony Yanakis has taken over the six-day, 250-seat Municipal from N. Leclerc.

Marieville, Que. Emile Forest has purchased J. Venne's 398-seat, six-day National Theatre.

Huntingdon, Que. Thomas and William Trow have leased, with option to buy, Mrs. Mae O'Connor's 288-seat, six-day O'Connor Theatre.

Fernie, BC. The six-day, 280-seat Orpheum has been transferred from B. J. Hawkey to S. J. Rosell.

Kingston, NS. F. J. Mumford has acquired the 250-seat, six-day Roxy from United Enterprises Limited.

Quebec Productions Signs Three Players

Lise Roy, Ovila Legare and Denis Drouin have been signed by Quebec Productions Corporation for the leading roles in the company's forthcoming French-language film, Le Cure de Village.

Film, due to start shortly, will be shot at Quebec Productions' St. Hyacinthe studios. Script and dialogue are by Robert Choquette.

'Ma And Pa Kettle' Defies Heat Wave

Empire-Universal's Ma and Pa Kettle, starring Marjorie Main and Percy Kilbride, has proved itself weatherproof during the recent heat wave.

The film, which had been doing holdover business before the wave kept most people outdoors, went right along—and at an increased pace. Bookers and exhibitors are amazed at its power of endurance at the boxoffice.

Since it grew out of the slapstickian and comedic parts of The Egg and I, and is made up of those elements, perhaps that is what the public wants now..

Position Wanted

Young, aggressive theatre manager would like position. Now at liberty. Married, no children. Willing to go anywhere. Can supply references.

Write Box 22
CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
175 Bloor St. E., Toronto

VAUDEVILLE, ETC. FOR VARIETY BALL NIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

Association and a clown band will mingle with the patrons, who will get a chance at 35 fine prizes.

Main feature is, of course, the regularly-scheduled game between those old Canadian rivals, the Maple Leafs and the Montreal Royals.

Entire proceeds, which means almost every dollar that comes in, will go for the building of Variety Village, vocational guidance school and residence for Ontario's crippled children, the project of the Toronto tent of Variety International.

The figures above the beginning of this article, on the front page, are of the top-hatted, hale and hearty citizen who symbolizes show business and Variety, The Barker, and Handlebar Hank, who is the symbol of the diamond jubilee of the Toronto Baseball Club.

HARRY LAHMAN, 39, PASSES IN TORONTO

Suffering a heart attack, Harry Lahman, president of the Canadian Automatic Confections Company, passed away in Toronto last week. He was 39 years old.

Born in Montreal, Mr. Lahman's residence since childhood was Toronto, where he was prominent in the business and sporting world. He was head of Brand & Millen, a radio and television set manufacturing concern, as well as president of the Brownie Chocolate Company and a partner in the Paddock Tavern.

A few years ago he purchased several horses and since then the racing game was his chief sporting interest, although he was an enthusiastic hockey fan.

Surviving are his widow, a son and a daughter, two brothers and sister.

Services were held in the Holy Blossom Synagogue.

FPCC TV TESTS BEING CARRIED ON

Famous Players now has a receiver cable on the Herman Building and it will be used for the Imperial's television when the equipment is here and its mobile unit gets going. Tests are being carried on between the Victoria, the company's TV headquarters, and the receiver cable.

Although Famous Players has its license for this type of actuality broadcast, much of the necessary equipment has not arrived from Paramount in the USA, particularly that for rapid processing of film.

It is hoped to show Canadian National Exhibition doings on the Imperial screen.

WINNIPEG PIC PIONEERS PICNIC

Annual picnic of the Winnipeg branch of the Canadian Picture Pioneers will be held on July 24th this year. The place is Maple Grove and July 31st is the alternate date in case of rain. Past outings have proven to be very successful and local film folk consider it the highlight of the summer.

It is hoped to raise a considerable sum of money for the benevolent fund through the picnic.

JARO WILL EXPLOIT 'ANIMALAND' TOYS

The J. Arthur Rank Organization is licensing the manufacture of toys and novelties based on the film cartoon characters in the Animaland series and Canadians may get rights direct or through JARO of Canada. So far but two cartoons of the Animaland series, made by the G. B. Animation, Ltd., have been distributed in Canada by Eagle-Lion.

It is expected that the first batch of toys and novelties will be imported for the Christmas season. Applications for licenses to manufacture them in this country will likely be made when the characters have had a chance to become popular.

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RENAISSANCE FILMS

(Continued from Page 1)

the meeting and the stockholders gave the new board a vote of confidence.

The film, Le Gros Bill, is completed and will be released to theatres this September. Also finished is Rhothomago, a film made especially for television showing to youngsters.

In production at the moment is a big-budget picture, Docteur Louise, which has already been booked into two of the leading theatres in Paris — the Gaumont Palace and the Rex. An outstanding cast is featured in the film.

Due to start shortly is the company's first color film, Sacrifice, and in preparation are a number of pictures with timely themes. These incude Rancons, Les Mains Liees, L'Homme aux Bonbons, Clairfontaine, etc.

The board of directors for the next 12 months is comprised of Dr. Paul Gilbert, president; Rosaire Beaudoin, first vice-president; J. Henri Duval, second vice-president; Camille Ducharme, treasurer; Samuel L. Gagne, secretary pro-term and general manager; Raymond Dionne, controller; and Ovila Robitaille, C. E. Massicote, Charles Lambert, Dr. Paul Racicot and Roger Brossard.

NFB's 'Famous Fish' August CCO Release

August release in the National Film Board's Canada Carries On series is Famous Fish I've Met, which deals with sports fishing across Canada and features Greg Clark, Montreal Standard sports columnist, and Pete McGillen, who holds the same position with the Toronto Telegram.

October release in the CCO series will be an as yet untitled film on visual education in schools. This will be followed by White Fortress, a film dealing with hospitals, in October and the November release will be about Canadian ballet.

Nathanson Succeeds Washer At Param'nt

Mort Nathanson has been appointed Paramount's Eastern publicity manager, succeeding Ben Washer, who resigned recently.

Nathanson entered the motion picture industry after being press representative for many years in the legitimate theatre field. His first position was with United Artists, then he was advertising and publicity manager for Samuel Goldwyn from 1942 to 1944. He next became Eastern advertising and publicity manager for Liberty Films and when that company was acquired by Paramount he became special advertising and exploitation representative for the latter outfit.

"DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT"
—M. P. DAILY

"HAS MUCH MERIT"
—FILM DAILY

"GOOD AND EXCITING"
—M. P. HERALD

"CASE-HARDENED YARN"
—BOXOFFICE

"OF THE BETTER CLASS"
—THE EXHIBITOR

"MANY NEW TWISTS"
—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"EXCELLENT BOXOFFICE"
—DAILY VARIETY

"ENTERTAINING, SUSPENSEFUL"
—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

"AWAY FROM STEREOTYPED"
—VARIETY

RKO PRESENTS

ROUGHSHOD

RKO RADIO PICTURES

starring

ROBERT STERLING
JOHN IRELAND · CLAUDE JARMAN Jr.
GLORIA GRAHAME

JOHN IRELAND distinguished for his great role in "RED RIVER" . . . adds a new masterpiece of villainy!

Produced by RICHARD H. BERGER • Directed by MARK ROBSON Screen Play by GEOFFREY HOMES and HUGO BUTLER

VARIETY VILLAGE—
Where the Crippled Kid Will Be King

Isn't it strange that princes and kings,
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
And common folk like you and me
Are builders for eternity?
To each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass and a book of rules;
And each must make, ere life is flown,
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

"Builders"—Anonymous.

Yes, each of us, "ere life is flown," will invite the judgment of those around us as to whether our legacy to the future will be "a stumbling block or a stepping stone." But the way in which a story ends is usually determined by the way in which it begins.

What of the crippled child whose story may end in the same fruitless way it began? Is that child never to have the spirit-lifting opportunity of challenging life, to give expression to its creative urge, to feel the honest pride that comes with having made "a stepping stone"? Think for a moment — is there a finer feeling known to man than that which comes through usefulness and independence of spirit?

Who amongst us that has sensed or known that feeling can have it in his heart to deny a child the chance to feel it too?

* * *

In Variety Village, a vocational guidance school and residence for crippled children, life will have joy and meaning and promise of a future as bright as that of children with better beginnings. Here will be the private kingdom of the crippled child — a kingdom where every kid will be a king. Here its energy will be directed, its creative urge cultivated, its spirit nourished. From here the child will go forth equipped with basic knowledge of an art or craft. It will be helped toward the same opportunity that any other child will have — to grow into a proud, useful Canadian.

Out on Kingston Road, at Toronto's eastern outskirts, on the rim of a beautiful valley that leads to Lake Ontario, steel, bricks and mortar are the stuff of dreams. There the dream of Variety Village is coming true.

Last December the cornerstone was laid by George Drew, who had been Premier of Ontario when it donated the land for the project. The work, which had begun in September, will likely end this September and Variety Village will be opened with international ceremonies.

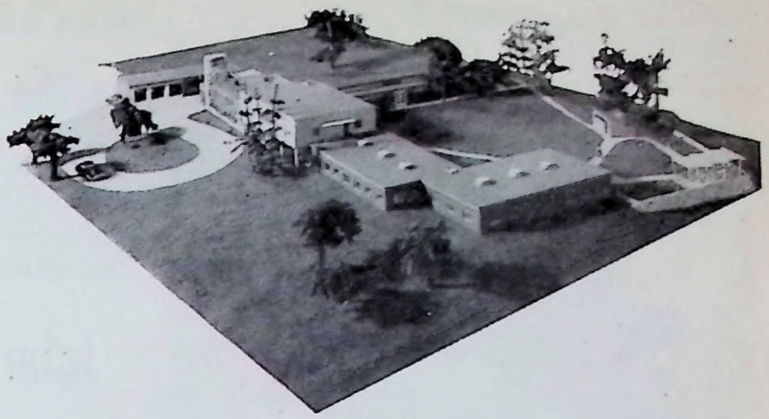
A Variety Village Council, comprised of representatives of the Variety Club, the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and the Ontario Department of Education, has been set up to administer affairs and its chairman is J. Maitland MacIntosh, KC, vice-president of the Toronto Baseball Club. The Council has already hired a number of teachers.

* * *

But, although it is estimated that the building of Variety Village will cost close to $300,000, only $100,000 has been earned for it to date. Through the Montreal-Toronto baseball game it is hoped to add another $50,000 and further events will follow in the amusement world, all designed to pay for Variety Village.

Variety Village is the project of the Variety Club of Toronto, which is No. 28 in 36 such clubs under the banner of Variety International, known as "The Heart of Show Business." There are clubs in Britain, Canada, Mexico and the United States and each has its own local and regional community efforts. Membership in Variety is confined to persons in the amusement world and their associates.

The first club was formed in Pittsburgh in 1927 by 11 men from various amusement interests. It was purely a social club but became a service club with the finding of an abandoned baby girl in a theatre on Christmas Eve, 1928. The girl's mother, in a note pinned to its dress, explained that it was one of six and that she could not care for it.



Her plea that it be taken care of was heeded and the girl, named Catherine Variety Sheridan, was officially adopted. Today she is married and lives in anonymity, having inspired one of the finest service organizations in the world, for show and sports people in other cities soon copied the Pittsburgh club, which became No. 1.

* * *

Toronto got its first Variety Club in 1946, when 11 sports and theatre executives applied for a charter. There are now several hundred members who spend social evenings in the club's lovely quarters in the Prince George Hotel.

However, Variety is primarily a service organization and its interest in crippled children was attracted by one of its members, Conn Smythe. Since then the club has worked hard toward the realization of Variety Village. You can share its work by helping the cause in any way you can. Your only reward will be the smile on the face of the happy man who was once a crippled child with an uncertain future.

That, you will agree, is reward enough.

* * *

Typodermic Injections

I remember when being able to see through something was helpful instead of harmful. Harold Kay of Eagle-Lion knocked himself unconscious by trying to run through glass theatre doors. Saw his wife ahead and ran to catch up with her. The doors looked open — and Harold doesn't wear glasses . . . **Eugene Kash,** NFB music director, has been invited to play two concerts in Paris.

Best looking-and-listening in town is that fascinating femme in Eaton's downtown store, near the centre doors on the James Street side, who demonstrates cosmetics while spieling . . . **One of the most dangerous** traffic corners is at St. Paul's Square and Bloor, where cars are not visible to drivers until they hit each other or almost do.

Easeup on European travel has brought back the prewar brand of bore who takes up time showing pictures of the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower and all the shots you've been looking at in magazines all your life. The magazine photography is much better too. You go visiting and someone sets up a viewing machine that projects slides, ruining the rest of the evening by showing what are stock shots and giving a lecture with them.

New one on me: A potato chip stand — but on a truck and moving around the city . . . **Col. Bennett,** husband of Mrs. Bennett, Leo Devaney's secretary, was buried with full military honors . . . **Intermission,** amusement magazine printed in Winnipeg and edited by D. F. Williamson, is a mighty fine effort . . . **Just William's Luck,** one of the producers of which was Dave Coplan, is being screened around.

I got a real kick out of the recent Collier's story about the multiple-talented Irving Hoffman, to whom so many in the movie and press fields owe so much. His "Tales of Hoffman" column in the Hollywood Reporter causes more quotes than the stock market. Once, in a verbal ribbing match with a former local columnist who relied greatly on Irving's stuff, I quelled him for months with: "After all why shouldn't your stuff be tops. Ain't you Irving Hoffman's No. 2 company?" Jules Levine scribbled the Collier's biog with a sure pen.

GIANT GORILLA BECOME

In the Show With the Ten Most Terrific Thrills Eve

1. Baby gorilla reared by girl!
2. Fights capture by men and horses!
3. Tamed as night club star!
4. Out-muscles 10 strong men!
5. Balances girl, piano, over head!
6. Tormented, goes wild!
7. Rips iron doors, steel bars!
8. Wrecks palatial night club!

Matching muscle with 10 men and horses, Joe resists invasion of his native Africa!

Tormented, Joe runs amok, wrecks night club, tosses lions around like kittens!

Braves blistering flames of burning building, climbs dizzy heights to rescue children!

John Ford and Merian C. Cooper present

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG

MERIAN COOPER'S AMAZING ADVENTURE IN THE UNUSUAL!

starring

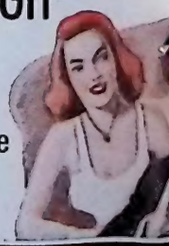
TERRY MOORE · BEN JOHNSON

and ROBERT ARMSTRONG with FRANK McHUGH

Directed by ERNEST B. SCHOEDSACK

Technical Creator Willis O'Brien · Screen Play by Ruth Rose

An Arko Production · Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.



SOLD LIKE A CIRCUS FOR THE HISTOR

THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND AND

S POWDER-KEG PET OF SOCIETY!

Pictured:

⑨ Defies police machine guns!

⑩ Rescues children from blaze!

Y-MAKING 350-THEATRE PREMIERE
N.Y. STATE BEGINNING JULY 13th!

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 14, No. 29 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

SHORT THROWS

PERMISSION has finally been granted by Edmonton council for that city's newest theatre—A. E. Staniland's 450-seat Tivoli, which is due to open August 1st —to connect with the city's sewer and water mains. Move was decided on after much arguing and quibbling resulting from the theatre's location being several feet outside city limits. Staniland had to agree to pay for all connecting, pay a connecting fee to the city and to a rider that the city can cancel all service with six months' notice.

SEVERAL eastern Canadian cities will be included in Charles Laughton's list of personal appearances this Fall. He presents a complete evening's entertainment with recitations from the Bible and Shakespeare, as well as public readings and dramatic excerpts. Critics and capacity audiences in the USA have agreed on the excellence of the one-man performance.

THIEVES broke into the office of the newly-opened Mountain Drive-in Theatre at Albion Falls, near Hamilton, and stole a safe containing $1,600. The safe was found cracked open next morning in Hamilton.

JAPANESE major producers have adopted a code of ethics more rigid than those laid down by Will Hays. They all have agreed to show virtue triumphant, stress democratic ideas and minimize sex and violence.

Brutal killings must not be shown in detail, nor illegal traffic in and use of narcotics, the code stipulates.

ISRAEL'S first motion picture studio is now in process of construction. A $600,000 project, it has been financed partially by an American outfit and the land, some 20 acres, was donated by the Jewish National Fund. USA film companies, whose earnings have been frozen by the Israeli Government, is said to be interested in using the studio as a means of utilizing these assets. The studio will be rented to foreign or local producers and several Independents, including Andre Bohem and Fred Zinneman have films that they are prepared to make in Israel.

The Big Steal

with Robert Mitchum, Jan Greer, William Bendix.

RKO 71 Mins.

LENGTHY, EXCITING CHASE BOLSTERS THIS MELODRAMA TO GIVE IT STRONG ASSIST IN ENGAGING AND KEEPING THE AUDIENCE SATISFIED.

A lengthy chase always bolsters a melodramatic plot and that is the case here. Producer Jack Gross has given The Big Steal smart handling to keep the audience's attention, then he adds on a wild chase down a mountainous road for the thrill finish. As a matter of fact the film's script, from a Richard Wormser Saturday Evening Post story, is one long pursuit with various characters chased and being chased. It all adds up to satisfying the audience and it does accomplish that end.

The names of Robert Mitchum and William Bendix are strong and Jane Greer is an able performer for the feminine interest.

Getting off to an interesting start in Vera Cruz, the story soon shapes up and concerns itself with the theft of Army funds, a payroll. Bendix is after Mitchum, Mitchum is after Patric Knowles. Miss Greer has a pursuing motive similar to Mitchum's. Bendix on reaching Mitchum demands the money and wants to arrest him. He gets slugged.

Miss Greer confronts Knowles who stalls her off when she asks for a sum he had "borrowed." Later Mitchum searches Knowles' room, finds nothing. Knowles has run out and is heading for Tehuacan. Knowles, Miss Greer learns from Mitchum, is the real culprit and Bendix has accused him of collusion.

With Mexican authorities informed, Mitchum and Miss Greer chase Knowles to Tehuacan, meet Ramon Novarro there, and from that point on the pursuit element really gets cooking to later wind up with the true facts coming out. The payroll is recovered. Marital plans are in store for Mitchum and Miss Greer.

CAST: Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer, William Bendix, Patric Knowles, Ramon Novarro, Don Alvarado, John Qualen, Pascual Garcia Pena.

CREDITS: Executive producer, Sid Rogell; Producer, Jack J. Gross; Director, Don Siegel; Screenplay, Geoffrey Homes, Gerald Drayson Adams; Story by Richard Wormser; Photography, Harry J. Wild.

DIRECTION: Smart. PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

Producer Contracted

Marshall Grant has signed a producer contract with Columbia.

The Lady Gambles

with Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Preston, Stephen McNally.

Empire-Universal 99 Mins.

PATHOLOGICAL INSPECTION OF UNRESTRAINED, EMOTIONAL OUTLET IN GAMBLING. A DRAMA OF PERSONAL CONFLICTS. CONVINCINGLY PORTRAYED. QUALITY PRODUCTION. ADULT FARE. TENDS TO BE CONFUSING IN CERTAIN SECTIONS.

The pathology of the gambling instinct when it becomes an all-pervading obsession with a woman who is further bedevilled by the destructive influence of her sister on her personal life is scrutinized by the camera in The Lady Gambles.

In the flashback manner, Miss Stanwyck, far gone in her feverish pursuit of chance luck, is playing dice in an alley, using the loaded variety. Discovered, she is brutally beaten, taken to a hospital where Preston, her husband finds her. He's a newspaperman. Pleading with the doctor on the case to ease the looming police charge, Preston relates their former life and the plot goes back to when they were in Las Vegas and Miss Stanwyck met McNally, owner of a casino. In short order she is playing and losing considerable of their funds. Preston takes her to Mexico and for a while, away from the temptation of the tables, she is properly behaved.

But when Preston is away for a day she is exposed to gaming and again loses. Preston leaves her. Miss Stanwyck goes to McNally who gives her a job fronting for his syndicate. She poses as the owner of a racing stable. In time she spoils a carefully planned "killing" which the syndicate was to carry off. She again gets slapped around and tossed out.

The hand of her sister is again in evidence at the hospital. Miss Stanwyck attempts suicide. She is saved, however, and the light of reason points the way to a cure and a new life with Preston.

CAST: Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Preston, Stephen McNally, Edith Barrett, John Hoyt, Elliott Sullivan, John Harmon.

CREDITS: Producer, Michel Kraike; Director, Michael Gordon; Screenplay, Roy Huggins, adapted by Halsted Welles from a story by Lewis Meltzer, Oscar Saul; Photography, Russell Metty.

DIRECTION: Sound. PHOTOGRAPHY: Fine.

Three Stars Signed

Fidelity Pictures has signed Louis Hayward, Jane Wyatt and Lee Bowman for the three starring roles in House by the River, which Republic will release.

Colorado Territory

with Joel McCrea, Virginia Mayo and Dorothy Malone.

Warners 94 Mins.

PLENTY OF ACTION, "NAME" VALUES AND GOOD PHOTOGRAPHY DISTINGUISH THIS WESTERN.

As the soft-hearted, fast-drawing outlaw, notorious in the middle border states in the 1870's, Joel McCrea does very well by his characterization of Wes McQueen. Henry Hull handles his role well, as does Dorothy Malone.

Wes McQueen (Joel McCrea) escapes from jail, with the help of the leader of his old gang, and heads west where he hopes to quit, marry his girl and settle down. En route, he learns of the death of his girl. Further on, he meets Fred Winslow (Henry Hull) and his daughter Julie Ann (Dorothy Malone), who are heading for a place they bought, sight unseen.

McQueen heads for the hideout the gang leader has prepared for him, and there meets Duke Harris (James Mitchell), Reno Blake (John Archer), two members of the gang, and Colorado Carson (Virginia Mayo), who prefers the ruined Spanish village to life in El Paso dance halls. McQueen immediately incurs the enmity of the two men by taking charge of everything.

He tries to quit the gang, but is persuaded to commit one more robbery — a $100,000 train payroll job. He realizes that one of those in on the job, a train conductor, has tipped the USA Marshal. By manoeuvring quickly, and alone, he gets the money and leaves Duke and Reno to pay the price. Having pulled the job only to pay the leader of the gang, he takes it to the Winslow's ranch after he's found the leader dead. They agree to hide him, but when a posse arrives Julie Ann tries to betray him. McQueen sees Colorado stop her, and decides it's she, not Julie, that he loves. They ride to be married, but are trapped by a posse closing in. McQueen makes a break for it, leaving Colorado behind. She follows, only to be used by the Marshal's men in a trap, where both are killed and die hand-in-hand.

CAST: Joel McCrea, Virginia Mayo, Dorothy Malone, Henry Hull, John Archer, James Mitchell, Morris Ankrum.

CREDITS: Producer, Anthony Veiller; Director, Raoul Walsh; Written by John Twist and Edmund H. North; Photography, Sid Hickox, ASC.

DIRECTION: Good. PHOTOGRAPHY: Very Good.

FOX-ODEON DEAL?

(Continued from Page 1)

atres, which number over 100 in Canada.

A number of things in the past have indicated a considerable amount of fraternity between the 20th-Fox and Rank interests. They have joint holdings in the United Kingdom. USA trade papers have also carried reports that first-run for Fox product in Canada would be transferred to Odeon when the Famous Players franchise is up about a year from now.

Some significance has been attached to the fact that last year the top roster of 20th-Fox executives, led by President Spyros Skouras, came to Toronto and made their world announcement at the meeting of the Canadian division, which is headed by Arthur Silverstone.

Twentieth Century-Fox, which is a production-distribution-exhibition company in the United States and a distribution-exhibition company in Australia and other countries, is engaged exclusively in distribution in this country. The story is that in the '30s William Fox bought a site on Dundas, with some frontage on Yonge, for the building of a great theatre. The plans were dropped when he entered into an agreement with the late N. L. Nathanson, then head of Famous Players, not to open theatres in Canada. Famous Players is said to have bought the site for over a million dollars.

In 1941 Nathanson left Famous Players and joined Odeon Theatres, founded by his son, Paul. The latter sold 50 per cent to J. Arthur Rank following the death of the senior Nathanson. Later he sold Rank the other 50 per cent.

Shooting Under Way On 3 Lippert Films

Shooting is under way on three films by Lippert Productions and a fourth is scheduled for an early start. Cardinal Films is the Canadian outlet for Lippert.

In production are Deputy Marshall, being produced by William Stephens and starring Jon Hall and Frances Langford; The Dalton Gang, being produced by Ron Ormond and starring Don Barry, Robert Lowery and Betty Adams; and Texas Manhunt, which is also an Ormond production and stars Don Barry and Tom Neal and features Margia Dean and Joseph Crehan.

Shortly to go before the cameras as one of the first on the 1949-50 schedule is Square Dance Jubilee, which will feature top names from radio, stage and television and will deal with the present return to popularity of old-fashioned square and folk dancing.

MGM Silver Anni

(Continued from Page 1)

Academy Awards as those of any other studio. Recently Dore Schary, Hollywood's leading production executive among the younger group, joined MGM.

Canada's link with MGM is Louis B. Mayer, formerly of Saint John, NB, who is executive head of the studio. Mayer got into exhibition in neighboring New England, moved to Los Angeles to take charge of the Selig studios, then combined with the Loew-Schenck-Bernstein Metro outfit, in which Samuel Goldwyn was also interested. So Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer came into being and the title remained that way even after the others purchased Goldwyn's facilities.

Mayer, who was presented with an honorary degree by the University of New Brunswick several years ago, has always had the best interests of the motion picture industry at heart. He recently attacked producers who make questionable films on the grounds that they have "so-called messages" or are "real-life stories."

In Canada Regal Films, headed by the late N. L. Nathanson, had distributed Metro product since 1919, four years after it came to this country, and the company got the MGM output.

Several years ago Loew's Inc., the parent company, assumed sole and complete distribution of its own product in Canada and Henry L. Nathanson, for many years its general manager, also became president. The name "Regal" was dropped in favor of "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer of Canada."

Many Regal-MGM staff members throughout Canada hold the company's 25-year pin, among them Ted Gould, its popular Dominion sales manager. Ted joined the company in Winnipeg 30 years ago and after serving in several posts, among them that of Western Division manager, he took charge of the Toronto branch in 1940. Several years later he was moved up.

Garfield Cass, youthful successor to Gould as manager of the Toronto branch, joined the company 15 years ago and has served it directly during that time except for several years in the Royal Canadian Navy. Cass is a member of the well-known industry family of that name. His brother Hilly is manager of the Montreal branch, while brother Abe is the Toronto branch manager for Columbia.

Another MGM veteran is Dewey Bloom, probably the best-known movie public relations man in Canada, who joined Regal in 1931 after working in New York. A native of Hamilton, he is the dean of Canadian film exploiteers, although not the oldest among them.

From the exhibition side of the Silver Anniversary, MGM's domestic and international sales department, under William F. Rodgers for domestic operations and Arthur M. Loew for international, are striving for every theatre in every country where American product is not excluded to show Leo the Lion on its screen at least one or more times.

The company has compiled a subject to commemorate its 25th birthday entitled Some of the Best, which, according to Rodgers, is "one of the greatest entertainment attractions ever made by our studio or any other studio."

This subject, composed of scenes from MGM's important pictures during the past 25 years, including current and forthcoming product, runs approximately 40 minutes and will be distributed gratis to all theatres.

"Every theatre," states Rodgers, "will want to play this film, for it will undoubtedly create a greater interest among the public in motion pictures. Old-time theatregoers will have nostalgic memories revived in seeing their old favorites in their famous roles, and the new generation will be given a glimpse of the past to compare it with the exciting advance in technical methods of film-making which has taken place during 25 years."

With seven pictures having begun in July, six now before the cameras and 18 completed, the program, with Dore Schary in charge of production, is continuing as scheduled for 1949.

All forthcoming films will receive the important individual handling which proved so successful with the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary pictures, Little Women, Command Decision, Take Me Out to the Ball Game, The Barkleys of Broadway, and the coming month's release of Any Number Can Play, The Stratton Story Neptune's Daughter, The Great Sinner, In the Good Old Summertime and Madame Bovary.

Ready to begin shooting are Key to the City, starring Clark Gable and Loretta Young, directed by George Sidney and produced by Z. Wayne Griffin; Europa, starring Greer Garson, produced by Gottfried Reinhardt; Please Believe Me, starring Deborah Kerr, Peter Lawford and Robert Walker, directed by Norman Taurog, produced by Val Lewton; East Side, West Side, with an all-star cast, directed by Mervyn LeRoy, produced by Voldemar Vetluguin; Outriders, produced by Richard Goldstone; Father of the Bride, starring Elizabeth Taylor, directed by Vincente Minnelli, produced by Pandro S. Berman; and The Yellow Cab Man, starring Red Skelton, directed by Jack Donohue, produced by Richard Goldstone.

With the start of Nancy Goes to Rio, starring Ann Sothern, Jane Powell, Barry Sullivan, Louis Calhern, Carmen Miranda and Scotty Beckett, directed by Robert Z. Leonard, produced by Joe Pasternak, six pictures are in current production. The others are Adam's Rib, On the Town, Stars in My Crown, Tension, and Bodies and Souls.

MGM's all-time record star list of 88 personalities will be seen in films scheduled for release in the fall and into 1950, with a majority of productions featuring all-star casts.

As Dewey Bloom wrote in a letter to the Canadian Film Weekly, MGM, during its 25 years, "has contributed in substantial measure to the progress and development of what has become the most popular medium of entertainment — and an industry that encompasses in its products all the creative arts, gives employment to thousands of people all over the world, provides pleasure for millions, and brings to them a wider knowledge of people of other lands and their manner of living. Quite a business!"

THEATRE BUILDING

(Continued from Page 1)

a number of others. In addition plans were announced for one new house.

Theatres in operation or nearing completion include:

Penticton, BC. First drive-in for the southern interior of the province. Can accomodate 500 cars and named The Pines. Open.

Manning, Alta. John Lovlin and Karl Gurtler have opened their 300-seat, two-day Aurora, the first here.

Swan River, Man. E. Bierwirth, operator of the 295-seat, six-day Palace, the only other theatre here, has opened his 250-seat, one-day Legion Theatre.

Edmonton. A. E. Staniland's 450-seat Tivoli is scheduled to open August 1st.

Theatres in work include:

Vancouver. Building has started on David Macfarlane's 850-seat, $100,000 structure.

Swan River, Man. Construction has started on C. Augustine's new theatre, to be the third here. One just opened.

St. Pierre, Man. A. E. Turenne has started work on his new theatre to replace his house destroyed in a fire last year.

Famous Players is about ready to start work on its 2,000-seat, $400,000 Paramount Theatre in downtown **Edmonton** and has announced that a new theatre in the Highlands district of the city is also planned.

Leavitts Retire After 37 Years

Retirement of the Leavitt family of Exeter, Ontario, from the theatre business after 37 years drew a printed tribute from the Exeter Times Advocate. The small-town exhibitor is much closer to his patrons personally than the city man. In Exeter the Leavitts are regarded with gratitude and affection.

Wrote the newspaper:

"Mrs. Pearl Leavitt Cochrane sold Leavitt's Theatre to Mr. G. D. Thompson, of St. Marys, last week. The sale marked the end of thirty-seven years of entertainment service to the people of the district by the Leavitt family.

"In October, 1946, Leavitt's Theatre celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the new theatre and the thirty-fifth year in the moving picture business in Exeter.

"William Leavitt's first venture in the entertainment business was the erection of a skating rink, known as the Dome rink, at the rear of the present building, at the time of the first World War. Hockey and skating were major attractions at the time and many a fast and exciting game of hockey was witnessed by local fans at the Dome.

"It was in the Dome rink that Mr. Leavitt started the first moving pictures in Exeter. Later he purchased and remodelled the building now occupied by Rivers' Grocery which served the public until the advent of the 'talkies'. The old building was long and narrow with wooden seats, and piano music was provided throughout the showing.

"At eighty years of age, long past the time when most men are taking life easier, Mr. Leavitt undertook the erection of the present building which at the time was one of the finest theatres to be found outside the cities, and to install the new sound equipment, replacing the silent pictures. The wooden seats were transferred to the new theatre, and later these were replaced with cushion seats. Mr. Leavitt was assisted in his undertakings by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Cochrane.

"Leavitt's Theatre has always provided the latest in shows, never far behind and sometimes ahead of the cities with the pictures of the hour."

Fox Buys 'China Egg'

"China Egg" by Jean G. Beckett has been purchased by 20th-Fox as a possible starring vehicle for Jeanne Craine and William Lundigan.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

British Films

(From the Windsor Daily Star)

The Ontario motion picture censorship and theatre inspection branch makes mention of the increase of British films being shown in Canada, and to their excellence. Obliquely it condemns some of those made in Hollywood.

Hollywood has many masterpieces of production to its credit. Difficulty is that for every outstanding one, there are a dozen or more so mediocre the world would have missed nothing if they never had been made. Still others are definitely bad, either from poor plots, poor acting or, even worse, by pandering to the nastier aspects of humanity.

British pictures have many obstacles to overcome on this continent, but they can be overcome when high-class films are produced.

What the entertainment world needs is another Hollywood, containing all its merits and lacking its demerits. In seeking to make millionaires of all the producers and star actresses and actors, it all too often has relegated excellence and decency to second place.

Motion Pictures in Arabia

(USA Government Report)

There are no motion picture theatres as such in operation for the general public in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Indeed, the showing of motion pictures is anathema to His Majesty and his devout Wahabi ulama or religious advisors. Admittedly, this proscription has not prevented a number of wealthy Saudi Arabs, particularly in the Hejas, from importing 16 mm. projectors and equipment for their private use. These are relatively few in number, however.

In addition to the above, two 16 mm. sound projectors are owned and operated by the Jidda Film Society under the co-chairmanship of the British and United States Ambassadors. Showings are given once a week on the roof of the United States Embassy residence for the benefit of the American and European community resident in Jidda. An oil company is known to be operating 16 mm. equipment in Dhahran, Abqaiq, Ras Tanura and Ras Misha'ah for its employees. Also the United States Air Force operates an open-air theatre using 16 mm. equipment for the personnel of the Dhahran Air Base. There are probably about 25 16 mm. projectors in all Saudi Arabia.

French Film Award Winners Announced

Jennifer Jones and Gregory Peck were named as the best foreign non-French actress and actor of 1948 in the French film awards made in Paris recently. Equivalent to Hollywood's Oscar, the famed Winged Victory statue was presented to the winners or their representatives.

Walt Disney won an award for his animated features, Bambi and Dumbo. Sir Laurence Olivier's Hamlet was considered the best foreign film and best foreign direction award went to Alfred Hitchcock for Notorious.

Cast In 'Palomino'

Beverly Tyler has been signed by Columbia for the feminine lead opposite Jerome Courtland in the Technicolor outdoor film, The Palomino. Robert Cohn will produce and Ray Nazarro direct.

Para Title Change

The Lie has been set by Paramount as the new title for the Barbara Stanwyck-John Lund film now in production under the former name I Married a Dead Man.

Gloria Henry Set

Columbia has set Gloria Henry for the Feminine lead opposite Eddy Arnold in Feudin' Rhythm.

'Honeymoon For One'

Manfred Kutnick's "Honeymoon for One" has been bought by Warners as a starring vehicle for Gordon MacRae.

Film In Preparation

The Hawk and the Arrow, to be produced in Technicolor by Norma Productions for Warner release and to star Burt Lancaster, is now in preparation for an early start.

Anderson, NFB, Wins USA Post

Robert Anderson, National Film Board director of the Mental Mechanism series, Feeling of Rejection, Over-Dependence and Feeling of Hostility, has left for New York on leave of absence for a year to work as Film Officer for the Joint Mental Health Film Board in the United States.

The Joint Mental Health Film Board, sponsored by the National Committee of Mental Health, was recently set up to produce films patterned after the Canadian Mental Mechanism series.

A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Anderson came to the Film Board from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1942. During the war years the Board granted him leave of absence to study documentary film production in Britain. In 1946 he directed the first of the Mental Mechanism series produced by the Board for the Department of National Health and Welfare with the co-operation of the Allan Memorial Institute of Psychiatry, Montreal. Another film in this series is at present under production.

The only mental health films prior to this series were clinical productions for use by psychiatrists, therapists and professional groups, and a few specialized productions for use within such organizations as the United States Navy.

It was considered by the Department of National Health and Welfare that the use of this series could be broadened to include the instruction of social workers and other professionals in the health field.

The films were shown experimentally to general audiences on the rural film circuits of the National Film Board. Their reception caused the Department of National Health and Welfare to reconsider the series as a means of giving the public vital information in a field which is just beginning to receive recognition.

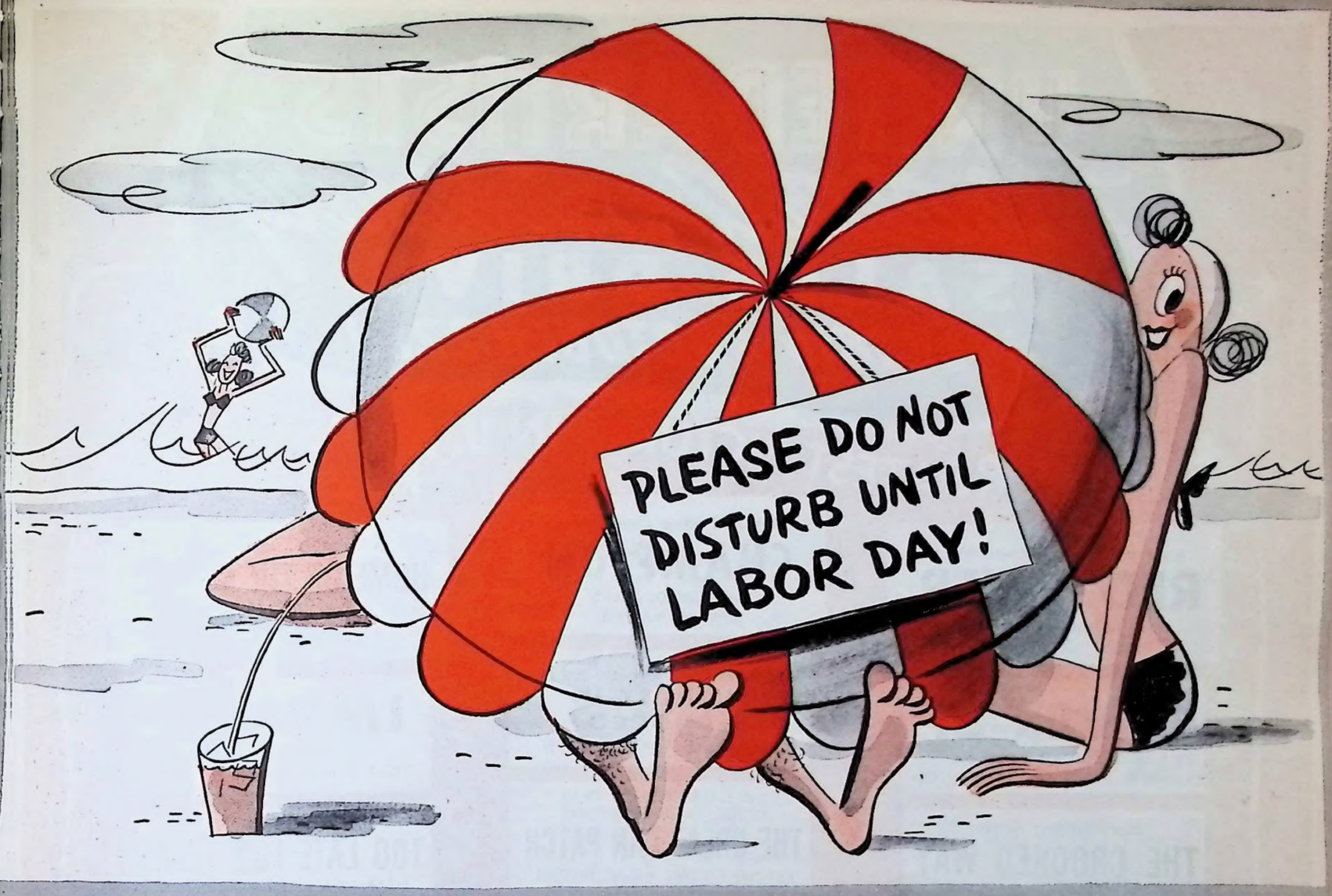
In the United States the series was acclaimed by the lay as well as the professional press. The possibilities were immediately recognized by American professionals and shortly afterward the Joint Mental Health Film Board was established to produce similar films and explore the medium.

Jack Holt Cast

Jack Holt has been added to the cast of Lippert Productions' Red Desert.

'The Kentuckian'

Harold Shumate's original, The Kentuckian, has been scheduled for future production by Paramount as a large-scale western.



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1949's hilarious comedy
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the box-office champion
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The Foreign Legion in action and love
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THE GREAT DAN PATCH
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GEORGE MONTGOMERY
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The biggest picture in 10 years
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The most talked-of
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ELLA RAINES HELEN WALKER

DRAMA — ACTION — LOVE
TOO LATE FOR TEARS
LIZABETH SCOTT • DON DeFORE
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QUICKSAND
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